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Book Notices.

NIEBUHR ON THE AMARNA TIME.¹

This is the second *Heft* of the new series *Der alte Orient*, herausgegeben von der Vorderasiatischen Gesellschaft. It is a popular treatment, under five heads, of the Tel el-Amarna inscriptions and their importance: (1) discovery and kind of tablets, (2) the court and government of the Egyptians, (3) the letters of Asiatic kings, (4) the letters of Asiatic subjects, (5) the general conditions of the Amarna period. The author gives brief extracts from several of the most interesting letters. His translations agree substantially with those of Winckler. We are glad to see that he adopts Knudtzon's reading, Kadashman-Bel, as the name of the Babylonian king (formerly read Kallima-Sin) who carried on correspondence with Amenophis III. Though just a sketch, this pamphlet gives some idea of the world activity of the fifteenth century B. C., in which the cuneiform language was the language of diplomacy.

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THUREAU-DANGIN ON THE ORIGIN OF CUNEIFORM WRITING.²

Since the publication of *I^{re} Partie* of the above work³ M. Thureau-Dangin has secured much valuable new material touching the original forms of many of the cuneiform signs. This material embraces (1) the new acquisitions of the Louvre Museum, (2) the inscriptions discovered by M. E. de Sarzec (1897-8), (3) copies of texts made by himself in Constantinople in August, 1898, and (4) Part VII of the British Museum Cuneiform Texts. Since the issuance of *I^{re} Partie* he has made a new study of the Syllabaries *S^a*, *S^b*, and *S^c*, and observed some confirmations of and some objections to previous conjectures regarding the coalescence in modern form of two and sometimes of more distinct primitive signs.

The author has secured about 130 additional archaic forms, some of which vary but slightly from those already recorded in *I^{re} Partie*. He has also cast doubt on some of his former identifications, *e. g.*, those of

¹ DIE AMARNA-ZEIT: Aegypten und Vorderasien um 1400 v. Chr. nach dem Thontafelfunde von El-Amarna. Von Carl Niebuhr. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1899. M. 0.60.

² RECHERCHES SUR L'ORIGINE DE L'ÉCRITURE CUNÉIFORME. Par François Thureau-Dangin. Supplément à la *I^{re} Partie*. Paris: Ernest Leroux, 1899. iv+27 pp.

³ Reviewed in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SEMITIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES, Vol. XV, pp. 148 sqq.